

12. During the Civil War.

1862—1865.

The California and Nevada Volunteers. The guarding of the mail route and telegraph line over the Indian-infested mountains and plains—a duty first performed by a portion of the Utah militia—was now placed upon Colonel P. E. Connor and the California and Nevada Volunteers. These troops arrived from the west in October, 1862. They had enlisted to fight for the Union in the war then going on between the North and the South, and it was much to their disappointment that they were ordered to this Territory.



GENERAL P. E. CONNOR.

Their commander, who had been a captain during the Mexican War, was one of the first to place his sword at his country's service after the breaking out of the great Rebellion. Having been made a Colonel of Infantry by the Governor of California, he had recruited

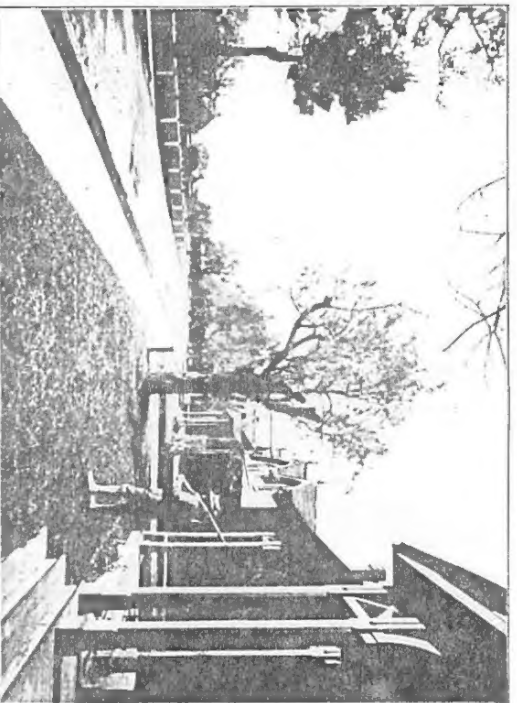
"Making of a state"

his companies and was expecting to be sent to the front when he received the disappointing order to march to Utah.

Vedette Duty. It was not merely to guard the overland route that these volunteers were sent: it was to watch over affairs and keep the Government informed regarding events in and around Salt Lake City. The impression made on the mind of the Nation by the Echo Canyon War had not been entirely dispelled. The loyalty of Utah was still in question, and it was thought well to keep an eye upon her.* As to the feeling over the troops, the people here had little if any objection to their coming, but they resented in their hearts the imputation that came with them, reflecting upon the patriotism of the community.

Colonel Connor's command set out for Utah in July. It then consisted of the Third California Infantry and part of the Second California Cavalry. On the way a few companies from Nevada joined them, making the entire force a little more than seven hundred men. The Colonel, in advance and alone, arrived at Salt Lake City on the ninth of September. After selecting a site for a military post he returned to Ruby Valley, Nevada, and led his troops hither. On the seventeenth of October they reached Fort Crit-

*In California there was talk of a Western Confederacy, should the Southern Confederacy succeed in winning its independence, and the authorities at Washington were not aware that Utah had received and rejected overtures from the South, which, if accepted, would have led her into the ranks of rebellion.



OFFICERS' QUARTERS, FORT DOUGLAS.

tenden (Camp Floyd), and on the twentieth entered the capital.

Fort Douglas. Having saluted the Governor at the executive residence, the little army, with bands playing and colors flying, marched on to the eastern foothills overlooking the town, and there encamped preparatory to building Fort Douglas. Until the erection of regular barracks, the volunteers sheltered themselves in huts and dug-outs, the monotony of camp life being varied by occasional sorties against the Indians.*

*Fort Douglas—originally called Camp Douglas—was named for Senator Stephen A. Douglas. It is situated about two and a half miles from Main Street, Salt Lake City. The Volunteers who founded the post occupied it until the close of the Civil War, when they were relieved by regular troops from the East.